

MASKED BANDITS IN BOLD ROBBERY

Hold Up China-Japan
Mail and Make
Escape.

PURSUIT MAY END IN BATTLE

After Forcing Trainmen, at Pistol's Point, to Assist in Looting Car, Desperadoes Send Engine Away on Wild Run.
Wreck Narrowly Averted.

Benecla, Cal., April 17.—The China Japan mail, which left San Francisco over the Southern Pacific Railway for the East at 9 o'clock Saturday night, was held-up by two masked men at Sprig, two miles east of here, early to-day and robbed of nine pouches of

registered mail. The train carried no express matter.

Four of the pouches have been recovered, but the robbers rifled the others, and now are hiding in the hills between Martinez and Oakland. Sheriff's posses from two counties, detectives and post-office inspectors are hunting for the postmen.

The passengers on the train were not disturbed, and several of them did not learn of the robbery until this morning.

bers cut the engine loose from the train and sent it wild, throttle open down the main track to the east. In the direct path of the engine was a section of passenger train No. 5, westbound, heavily loaded. But for the presence of mind of a telegraph operator at Sulsun a collision would have taken place. The engine was thrown into a ditch in the nick of time.

The train robbery is the first in California for several years. It was plotted and executed in spectacular fashion.

On Wild Journey.

After the mail car had been robbed the engine crew was forced to carry the nine mail sacks to the engine. The engine and mail car were uncoupled from the coaches, filled with sleeping passengers, and run down the track.

passengers, and ran for two miles. Here the mail pouches were thrown out, the engine uncoupled and its throttle pushed wide open. The engine dashed forward on its wild journey toward a passenger train coming westward to Tolenas, sixteen miles east, passing the first section on a siding at Cygnus.

As the engine passed the station, Suisun the operator noticed it was

running wild. He immediately reported to the dispatcher's office at Oakland, and received instructions to call Tolenas and instruct them to derail the on-coming engine.

Second section of train No. 5, which had just arrived at Tolenas, was ordered to wait there for the Chin Japannese mail. The switch was thrown, and the runaway engine, within a few minutes, was stopped. At this time, pretty well relieved of steam, it came to a sliding, and smashed into

The train lay engineless for some time, while an engine was secured from Sacramento. It then was hurried into Sacramento, arriving at 6 o'clock this morning.

A good description of the bandit was furnished by a man on the ferry boat, who had observed them as they hung about Port Costa waiting for the train.

Their trail has been followed to the

rough hill country between Martinez and Oakland, and it is believed that they are headed toward San Francisco, and have a good chance to escape.

WAINWRIGHT REFUSES OFFICIAL

Senate Senator Cannot Accept the Surveyors of the Port.

Washington, D. C., April 17.—Senator Mayhew Wainwright, of New York, has declined the office of successor of the port of New York, to succeed General James S. Clarkon, whose term of office will expire on Monday.

In a telegram received by Secretary MacVeagh Wainwright expressed his profound regret that he cannot accept the office, at the same time acknowledging the honor proposed to be conferred and the confidence reposed in him.

Pending the appointment of a successor to General Clarkson, the office of the surveyor will be turned over to a deputy. The general has an interest in a newspaper, and expects to enter that field of work. He was appointed surveyor of the port of New York in April, 1902.

Hungarian Count the Only Sensational Winner of the Waning Season.

Monte Carlo, April 17.—The season here is waning. Many Americans have returned to Paris. No American disturbed the bank this season by winning a considerable sum.

The only sensation was the winning by a Hungarian count of 500,000 francs (\$100,000) in one day's play at roulette. The Casino has had an unusually prof-

The Casino shareholders expect to receive a dividend of \$70 a share this season, a dividend \$5 larger than that of last year. The shares are nominally worth \$300. At the present market price they are worth over \$1,000.

Utica, N. Y. April 17.—Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman, the latter's brother, Sherrill Babcock, and the Vice-President's secretary, Harry L. Devendorf, arrived from Washington to-day. They will return to Washington late to-morrow night immediately upon the completion of the dinner of the Republican Club, at which Mr. Sherman is to preside as toastmaster. Congressman James H. Watson of Indiana, has consented to deliver an address.

Address,